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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 COME-00 /064 W
----------261903Z 060555 /62
R 261825Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04158

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING INCREASE

REFS: (A) USNATO 3595, 190048Z MAY 77, (B) DPC/D(77)9
(REVISED).
SUMMARY. IN ITS MEETING OF MAY 24, THE INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF FURTHER AUGMENTATION,
AS DIRECTED BY DPC MINISTERS MAY 17. IN VIEW OF FIRM
DANISH AND ITALIAN POSITIONS, THE COMMITTEE SETTLED ON
AN INCREASE OF IAU 140 MILLION AND AGREED ON THE
POSSIBILITY OF MAKING FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
DPC AND PERHAPS TO MINISTERS IN THE FALL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THEIR MEETING OF MAY 17, DPC MINISTERS AGREED
TO AN INCREASE IN THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE
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CEILING OF AT LEAST IAU 140 MILLION, AND REFERRED THE
MATTER TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER
CONSIDERATION. THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE POSSIBILITY
OF A FURTHER INCREASE IN ITS MEETING OF MAY 24.

2. THE CHAIRMAN (SMITH) WENT DIRECTLY TO THE REPS OF
THE THREE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD AGREED TO NO MORE THAN

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IAU 140 MILLION FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER INCREASE. ALTHOUGH THE BELGIAN REP (COL BAEYENS) INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY, ECHOING THE STATEMENT OF HIS MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS, THE DANISH AND ITALIAN REPS (JACOBSEN AND COL GIAMMARCO) SAID THEIR INSTRUCTIONS VERY CLEARLY LIMITED THEM TO THE AGREED LEVEL. ALL THREE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A CUT-OFF AT FOUR YEARS, I.E., APPLYING THE ENTIRE IAU 140 MILLION TO SLICE XXIX.

3. THERE WAS DISCUSSION, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT SLICE GROUP, OF SUCH OTHER ALTERNATIVES AS EARLY PROGRAMMING OF SLICE XXX AND AN OVERLAP WITH SLICE XXXI, OR THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT PROGRAMMING THE USUAL TEN PCT FOR CONTINGENCIES AND THUS ADDING THAT AMOUNT TO THE INITIAL AVAILABILITY. WHILE COUNTRIES WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON PRECISELY HOW THE PROGRAM COULD BE ACCELERATED, AND WHETHER THERE WOULD INDEED BE TIME TO CHANGE BASIC PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE CURRENT SLICE GROUP, THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THEIDEA OF REVIEWING THE USE OF CONTINGENCIES.

4. THIS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE FRG REP (PFEIFFER) WHO ARGUED THAT WE NOW SET ASIDE TEN PCT (ACTUALLY 1/11TH) AT THE PROGRAMMING STAGE, THAT WE REAFFIRM THIS AT THE AUTHORIZATION STAGE, AND THAT WE ALSO HOLD THAT AMOUNT OF THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE. IN HIS VIEW, THE RESERVE OF CONTINGENCIES AT THE BUDGETARY CONTROL STAGE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND WOULD PERMIT A HIGHER PROGRAMMING
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LEVEL. HE CONCEDED THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD FORCE THE ELIMINATION OF MORE PROJECTS AT THE AUTHORIZATION STAGE, BUT FELT THAT IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENTLY LIMITED RESOURCES, THIS COULD BE JUSTIFIED.

5. THE COMMITTEE FINALLY AGREED TO SETTLE ON THE BEST CURRENT FIGURE OF IAU 140 MILLION AND THAT IT MIGHT REPORT TO THE PERM REPS IN THE FALL ON FURTHER STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE CURRENT SLICE GROUP, NOT EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER INCREASES. THE US REP (CAMPBELL) HAD PROPOSED THAT THE COMMITTEE BE MORE SPECIFIC IN STATING ITS INTENTION TO TRY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE FALL, BUT THE DANISH REP WAS FIRM IN HIS OPINION THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD REJECT SUCH A STATEMENT AT THIS TIME. THE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT SET ASIDE THE NORMAL CONTINGENCY FOR PROGRAMMING THE ADD-ON, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD THE NORMAL TEN PCT OF ALL UNEXPENDED BALANCES, INCLUDING THOSE FLOWING FROM THE ADD-ON.

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6. PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, THE FRG REP HAD ADVISED THE US REP THAT MOD LEBER MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE US SPECIAL PROGRAM (USSP) AS AN ELEMENT OF THE CEILING INCREASE. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE SPEED AND NATURE OF THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND WE WERE IN THE MEANTIME ABLE TO SOLICIT UK COOPERATION ON THIS POINT. IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, THE FRG REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE OPPOSED TO INCLUSION OF THE USSP ELEMENT,

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ARGUING THAT THE FRG HAD NEVER UNDERSTOOD THIS TO BE A PART OF THE COST-SHARING AGREEMENT, NOR THAT IT MIGHT BE PERPETUATED AS A PART OF ANY INCREASES TO THE FIVE-YEAR CEILING. THE US REP MADE A STRONG STATEMENT REPEATING ALL OF THE POINTS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE IN VARIOUS FORA AND FOUND WELCOME AND ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM PRACTICALLY ALL REPS, INCLUDING THE UK REP (DRAPER). (COMMENT: WE HOPE THIS WILL BE THE FINAL ROUND IN DEBATE ON THIS POINT. END COMMENT.)

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7. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH SCARCE INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES MIGHT BE BETTER MANAGED DURING THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR COST-SHARING PERIOD, INCLUDING SUCH POSSIBILITIES AS PHASED PROGRAMMING, IMPROVING THE ABILITY OF THE SYSTEM TO ABSORB RESOURCES CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFICIENTLY, SPEEDING UP THE PROGRAMMING PROCESS, AND FINDING WAYS OF ALLOWING SMALLER AND LESS COMPLEX PROJECTS TO MOVE AT THEIR OWN SPEED AND NOT TO BE IMPEDED BY THE MORE COMPLEX PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SURROUNDING COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS. THE COMMITTEE WAS RECEPTIVE TO A US SUGGESTION THAT IT TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK, AND THAT IT ASSIGN ELEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM, E.G., CEILING AND COST SHARES, INFLATION CONTROL, AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, TO WORKING GROUPS FOR CONCURRENT DISCUSSION. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO04158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770512/aaaaajxe.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 7974e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USNATO 3595, 190048Z MAY 77, DPC/D(77)9, (REVISED)., SUMMARY. IN ITS MEETING OF MAY 24, THE INFRASTRUCTURE
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2348279
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING INCREASE
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7974e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009